



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Term 3 Week 3 Communication – Friday 5 August 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Worimi. Sorry we missed our end of week communication last week. COVID knocked out a few too many at once and we fell a little behind. But that has not stopped our students and staff from giving their all and participating in a range of activities over the past two weeks. On the upside, we have double the news to share with you!

Year 12 students started their **Trial HSC Examinations** this Thursday. We are so proud of the way students engaged in their first exam for English. For this year group, it is the first formal opportunity for an exam under these test conditions. This a huge challenge to face and the feedback from our presiding officer, Graham Wilson, was that students did a tremendous job.

RAT kits - Over the past week, we have distributed a multipack of 5 RATs to students. If your child has missed out, or if you need some additional supplies, students can collect these from the front office.

Assessment Schedules – Semester 2 Year 7, 8 and 9 Assessment Schedules have been published on the Parent Portal and the school website. Students were also issued with a paper copy during roll call this week. We will also continue to upload individual Assessment Task Notifications to the portal for each task as they are issued to students.

Parent Teacher Evening – A huge thank you to all the families that were able to make it to Parent Teacher Evening last week. It was a terrific night, and we were pleased we were able to go ahead with a face-to-face event. We really do appreciate your time and the opportunity to connect.

Senior Drama Showcase – on the first Friday evening of the term, we were lucky enough to see Year 11 and 12 Drama students perform to an intimate audience of families and friends in the PAC. Year 12

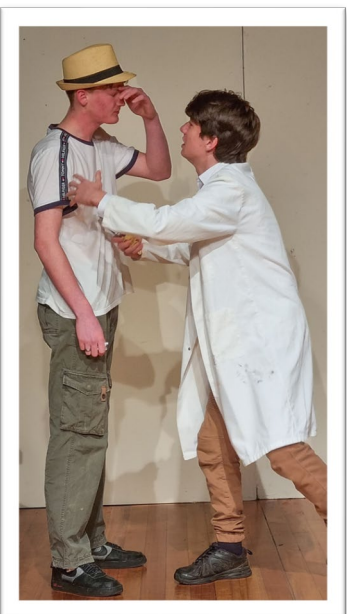
students, **Belle Hirst, Kayley O'Reilly and Charlie Kolega** performed their HSC Group Performance item and they had the audience in absolute stitches! Belle Hirst performed her individual item and moved the audience with story filled with wonder and hope. Kayley's individual performance brought us to tears.



Year 11 students also performed, sharing sections of a play as monologues and different acts. They had us laughing, smiling and pondering life.

Congratulations to all students. What better way to finish a week than going to theatre at our very own school.

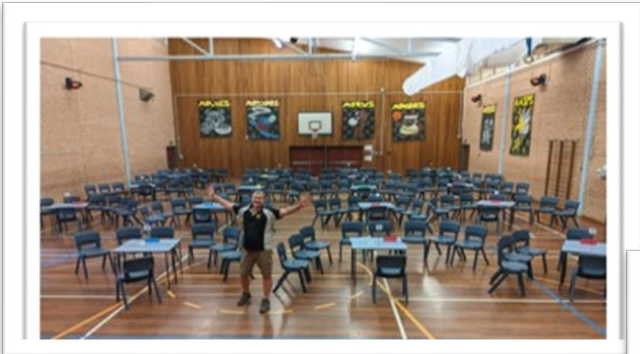
Also, a special thank you to sound and lighting technicians, Max Henderson and Max Tibbles (Year 8).



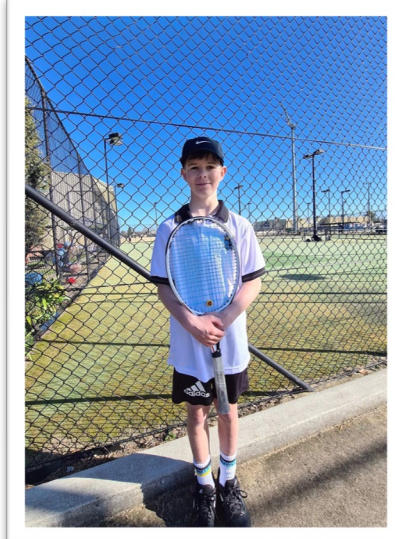


Student Support Officer – we are excited to announce that Rob Bradshaw, affectionately known to the students as Uncle Rob, has been appointed permanently to Winmalee High School as our Student Support Officer (SSO). We look forward to running some parent sessions where you can come along and meet Rob. He will be attending training next week, preparing for taking on the role. We have benefited so much from his expertise and wisdom and students have enjoyed being mentored and supported by Rob. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of the Winmalee High School Team!

Year 10 Careers – last Monday, Year 10 students participated in a workshop to learn about career options by meeting people from a wide variety of businesses and workplaces. The 'Inspiring the Future' program links students with industry volunteers who have taken time out of their own jobs to talk to students. The days was a success and students engaged well in this unique opportunity to connect with industry volunteers. Thank you to Mrs Cameron for setting up this workshop, and Ms Devile and Mrs Harrington for making sure it ran like clockwork. Thanks must also go out to Peter Smith, our site manager – he did a stellar job setting up our hall for this special event.



Congratulations to **Aiden Gwenossis** (Year 7) for his representation at Sydney West Secondary Schools Boys Tennis this week. This a tremendous achievement. Well done, Aiden!



A shout out to Year 9 student, **Suma Radzki** for her achievements in soccer. Suma was selected to attend a three-day camp in the second week of the school holidays. She participated in a game day at Goulburn and at Valentine Sports Park. Her talent was spotted, and she has been selected as a shadow player for the NSW Country National's team! This is a magnificent opportunity with potential to join the Matilda's team in the future.

Suma has worked hard for this. She has trained with the boy's team every Tuesday at Bathurst, for the last two terms. Her commitment is impressive.





Last Tuesday the whole school came together to join in this year's **NAIDOC week** celebrations. It was a beautiful assembly where we got to hear Year 8 students, **Lily Warren** and **Leonie Ellis** speak about the significance of NAIDOC. **Max Harris**, Year 11 student, spoke from the heart about his

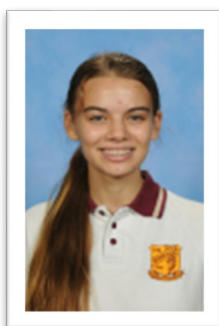


stunning artwork and he shared the meaning of the different symbols used. Teacher **Mrs Wood**, leader of many of our school based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs, spoke about her personal journey as a young Aboriginal woman. The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week is Get! Stand Up! Show Up! We are proud of Mrs Wood for being a positive role model to her students and sharing her own story, along with some her family history. Many of our Aboriginal students participated in recording a short video, where they shared what Country they were from. We finished the assembly with learning the traditional Dharug for hello,

which is Worimi. Mrs Wood encouraged students and staff to have a go, and to share information about and culture and history with one another.

One of our Year 11 Photography students took some photos for us on the day, but she has been away sick, so we will share some photos next week. 😊

Schools Spectacular 2022 selections – we are super excited to announce that two of our senior students have been selected as Vocalists for this year's Schools Spectacular. Congratulations to **Belle Hirst** (Year 12) for being selected as a backing vocalist, and to **Jackson Fitzgerald** (Year 11) for being selected as a featured Vocalist. Both Belle and Jackson have gone through a rigorous and lengthy audition process, and we are thrilled for them! Congratulations, Belle and Jackson.



Belle has also been involved in auditions for the Talent Development Program through the Arts Unit. To juggle days of auditions with the TDP program, Schools Spectacular and preparing for her HSC Trial Exams is massive. Well done Belle for so gracefully managing an enormously busy schedule.

Last week our Year 7 **Debating Team** came away from Round 2 of the Blue Mountains Debating Competition victorious, winning their debate against St. Columba's Catholic College.

Congratulations to Elouise, Georgia, Talia and Sarah for your hard work and dedication!





Our school is participating in the 2022 **Sexual Assault Action Day** later this month. The Blue Mountains Coalition Against Violence and Abuse (CAVA) invited our school to be involved and SSO, Rob Bradshaw will work with community members and our students to lead this event. This year's theme is around building resilience and healthy strategies for young men experiencing rejection in their online lives. CAVA are partnering with the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation to promote its campaign, [Crushed But Okay](#), which advocates the strengths in having healthy, fun and open dialogue with mates about rejection, and challenges the unhelpful stigma of online rejection.

Last week, a group of students had a planning session and BBQ lunch with Rob. We look forward to

finding ways to share this important content and messaging with your young men through this initiative.



At this week's assembly, **ZONTA** representatives were special guests to present Year 11 student, **Zoe Leach** with her award, and perpetual trophy for the 2022 Young Women in Public Affairs award. Later this year, Zoe and Ms Facas will have the pleasure of attending the ZONTA dinner to honour Zoe's work and achievements. Well done, Zoe. This is a prestigious award with a rigorous selection criterion.

Zoe is pictured on the left with Alison (far left), a former Winmalee High student who won the YWPA back in 1988! Linda Adair and Gina Vizza from ZONTA are to the right.



Finally, our big news for this week is the announcement of our **2022/2023 Student Leadership Team**. Year 11 students delivered their speeches on Assembly this week. They also submitted detailed applications and participated in a panel interview, which was led by our current School Captains, SRC Representatives and school staff. It is a stellar team for the coming year, and we can't wait to work with them. The two leadership teams, outgoing and incoming will work together to hand over the reigns this term.

Congratulations all students! The leadership team:

School Captains: Olivia Sell and Lucas Collins

Vice Captains: Nea Mulligan and Cohen Boys

Prefects: Texas Down, Jackson Fitzgerald, Reginald Hewitt, Zoe Leach and Hannah James-New.

A picture of our upcoming team is on the following page. Not all team members were at school today – if you look closely, Olivia Sell is present via video call in Nea's hands! They look fab in their Jeans for Genes Day outfits, fundraising for a good cause, led by the SRC.



Best of luck to Year 12 with the remainder of their exams. And happy packing to those year 10 students heading of to Ski Camp next week! We hope those Year 10 students going out on work placement have a terrific time in their varied workplaces next week too.

Until next week, take care and have a great weekend!

Winmalee High School